



**PATENT**  
Atty Docket No. 55954  
U.S. Express Mail Label No. EV 525171336 US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): M. Jeffries  
Serial No.: 10/063,187  
Filed: March 28, 2002  
For: D-Ring Handle

Group No. 3677  
Examiner: Andre L. Jackson  
Conf. No. 4765

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

It is desired to cite for the record in this application the enclosed documents listed on the attached copy of PTO Form 1449. In sections I-IV, below, the paragraph(s) marked with an "x" in the requisite space are applicable to this Information Disclosure Statement.

**I. REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION**

[ ] (a) The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date or within three months of the entry of the national stage of the above-

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**MAILING**

- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.8  
as first class mail.

- ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.10  
as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 525171336 US

**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

- ☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gayle Canfield  
Name of Depositor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
December 29, 2004  
Date

01/04/2005 AWONDAF1 00000050 10063187 180.00 OP 02 FC:1806

identified application. Accordingly, applicant(s) believe(s) that no fee or certification is required.

☐ (b) Applicant(s) believe(s) the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is entitled to the benefit of 37 CFR §1.97 (b) (3) as it is being filed before the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, applicant(s) believe(s) that no fee or certification is required.

☐ (c) Applicant(s) believe(s) the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is entitled to the benefit of 37 CFR §1.97 (b) (4) as it is being submitted before the mailing of an Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR §1.114. Accordingly, applicant(s) believe(s) that no fee for certification is required.

☒ (d) **Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(c), the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance and is accompanied by:**

☐ a certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e); or

☒ **the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17 (p);**

☒ **a check for this fee is enclosed herewith; or**

☐ please charge this fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1662.

## **II. PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 (d)**

☐ a) Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 (d), applicant(s) hereby petition(s) the Commissioner to consider the attached Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) state(s) that the issue fee has not been paid and that a certification under 37 CFR §1.97 (e) is provided herein, along with the petition fee of \$130.00 required under 37 CFR §1.17 (i) (1);

- ☐ a check for this petition fee is enclosed herewith;
- ☐ please charge this petition fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1662;

and

b) The information disclosure fee of \$200.00 required by 37 CFR §1.17 (p) is believed to be due, and

- ☐ a check for this fee is enclosed herewith; or
- ☐ please charge this fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1662.

**III. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 (e) (1)**

☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the attached Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application mailed not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Art was cited in an International search Report mailed \_\_\_\_\_ in the PCT Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ corresponding to the above listed patent application.

☐ A copy of the \_\_\_\_\_ by the International Preliminary Examining Authority is enclosed herewith.

**IV. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 (e) (2)**

☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the attached Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual having a duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR §1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not a representation by the undersigned as to personal knowledge of the contents of every word or phrase of the material enclosed or that reliance on other suitably trained professionals has not been made.

If a search report of a governmental or international or regional bureau searching agency is enclosed identifying the nature of the relevance of each document, such a designation is deemed to satisfy 37 CFR §1.98(a) (3) even if in a foreign language, since the few terms of relevance therein are deemed of universal cognizance. However, applicant does not necessarily adopt the position reflected by that report.

The information herein cited is only in fulfillment of Applicant's(s') duty of candor in disclosing all information brought to Applicant's(s') attention. This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art". If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant(s) further reserve(s) the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees  
associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1662.

Respectfully submitted,

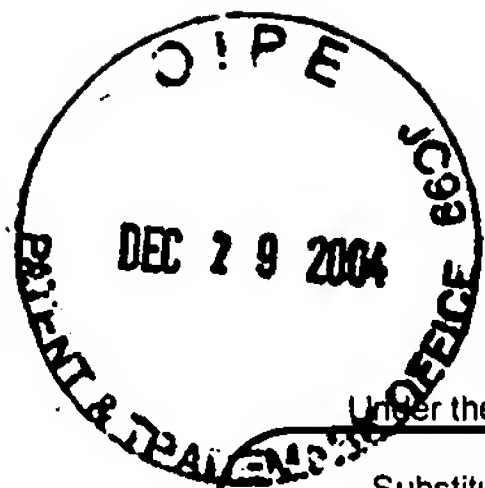
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/063,187
Filing Date	March 28, 2002
First Named Inventor	Mark Jeffries
Art Unit	3677
Examiner Name	Andre L. Jackson
Attorney Docket Number	55954

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 6,616,222	09-09-2003	Ponceau, Philippe	
		US- 6,467,130	10-22-2002	Kurachi et al.	
		US- 6,421,882	07-23-2002	Liao et al.	
		US- 6,397,436	06-04-2002	Wang, King Sheng	
		US- 6,389,645	05-21-2002	Polidoro, Roberto	
		US- 5,052,869	10-01-1991	Hansen	
		US- 4,336,631	06-29-1982	Duff et al.	
		US- 2,715,243	08-16-1955	Koll	
		US- 1,705,071	03-12-1929	Sheehan	
		US- 337,889	03-16-1886	Taylor	
		US- 258,009	05-16-1882	Blackham	
		US-			
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.